

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC 1. Airfield and Military Academy at Presov 25X1
2. New Air Force Barracks Installation at Prague-Jinonice

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 25X1

DATE OBTAINED 30 August 1954

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 4-3 sketches on ditto with legends and 1 photostat

REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED

25X1

1. Between 15 February and 21 October 1953, an airfield was located about 6 km northeast of Presov (4900 N/2114 E). The field was bordered by a new gravelled road to the west, by the Presov-Kapusany (4903 ⁿⁱ by a wide ditch to the east, and by ⁿⁱ the south. The field had a road which had been abandoned and was replaced by a newly constructed road. To the south the field slanted slightly. The size of the sodded landing field was about 1,800 x 1,500 meters. No concrete runway was available. A sodded strip, extending from southwest to northeast to a length of about 1,200 meters, was used as the take-off strip for heavy aircraft and was repeatedly rolled. After heavy rain, the field was unsuitable for use by twin-engine aircraft, such as DC-3's. A drainage system was available at the field and terminated at the brook which ran by the field toward the south. Three hangars were located in the northern section of the field, about 30 meters distant from the road. The middle hangar, about 60 x 40 meters, was a metal structure, built during the war. The two other hangars, each about 80 x 30 x 5 meters, were brick structures built in 1953. The floor of the hangars and the aprons were covered with concrete slabs, and the joints between were filled with asphalt. At the northern side of the middle hangar was the administrative building which was bordered toward the road by a 2-meter high fence and hedge. A sentry was posted within the fence. At the northern side of the field there was a small building from which the entire airfield could be observed. This building was connected with the administrative building by a telephone cable. The church towers at Sebes and the ruins at Kapusany were marked by obstacles.
2. DC-3 type aircraft were only observed at the field when work was being done on them in front of the hangars. Every morning, one would take off toward the west and return about 1700 on the same day. The aircraft were refueled in front of the hangars from a 7-ton tank truck with an oval tank. No fuel dump was observed at the field. On Sundays,

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25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL -

- 2 -

the field was usually released for gliding practices. Three or 4 gliders were parked in a small hangar at the northwestern edge of the field.

3. Prior to October 1953, a parachute unit practiced at and near the field. One group of parachutists each arrived at the field by truck in the morning and afternoon. Besides the personnel the trucks carried canvas-covered devices. The truck had a plate, 15 x 10 cm and painted half olive drab and half white, which was fitted on the radiator. Some trucks towed small canvas-covered guns. Sometimes, DC-3s arrived at the field from the west for the parachuting practices and left the field again after completion of training. It was learned from companions working in town that a parachute unit was quartered in a barracks installation near the railroad station and that the personnel of this unit wore red epaulets with parachute insignia. Some of the parachutists wore a silvery parachute badge on a blue background on their breast. Training by the parachutists included jumps over obstacles, jumps from a ladder, about 4 meters high, onto the sand or from a height of 10 to 12 meters on a tarpauline. At another practice device, parachutists were adjusted to a see-saw by ropes and, after jumping, remained swinging at a height of about 5 meters. From there they had to turn in different directions by means of a dangling rope according to orders given from the ground. ³ Parachuting was also practiced from cargo gliders, three of which arrived at the field when training was conducted. About 20 men would jump from each glider at an altitude of about 800 meters and would assemble to a group for practice attacks after touching ground. The dropping of a motorcycle attached to two parachutes was observed once. Repeatedly, two men with a machine gun would jump. The gun had immediately to be emplaced when touching ground.
4. A construction site, 800 x 500 meters, at which several buildings at sizeable distances were under construction was located west of the field and southeast of the road to Kapusany. The site was regularly inspected by high-ranking air force officers. Workers and local inhabitants stated that a military academy was under construction there.⁴
5. In October and November of 1953, a barracks installation had been constructed by PTP soldiers at Prague-Jinonice (5003 N/1422 E), along Mezilany Street, opposite the Tyrs School. The barracks installation was allegedly to house an air force unit.⁵

1. Comment. For sketch of Presov airfield, see Annex 1.

25X1

2. Comment. The present report confirms previous information according to which Presov airfield is used for commercial air traffic and for gliding. A parachute brigade is believed to be stationed at Presov and Kosice. The details stationed at Presov probably train at the Presov airfield. While previous information indicated that an air transport unit for the training of parachutists was permanently stationed at the field, the present report indicates that the transport aircraft used for training were only temporarily present at the field.

3. Comment. For sketches of training device and badges observed, see Annex 2.

25X1

4. Comment. The construction of an air force academy at Presov is reported for the first time. For location of the installation, see Annex 1.

25X1

5. Comment. It is unknown which air force unit or agency is to

25X1

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25X1

25X1

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be stationed at this barracks installation. For sketch of the installation, see Annexes 3 and 4.

Enclosure (numbered as Annex 3): Newly built Barracks Installation in Prague-Jinonice

25X1

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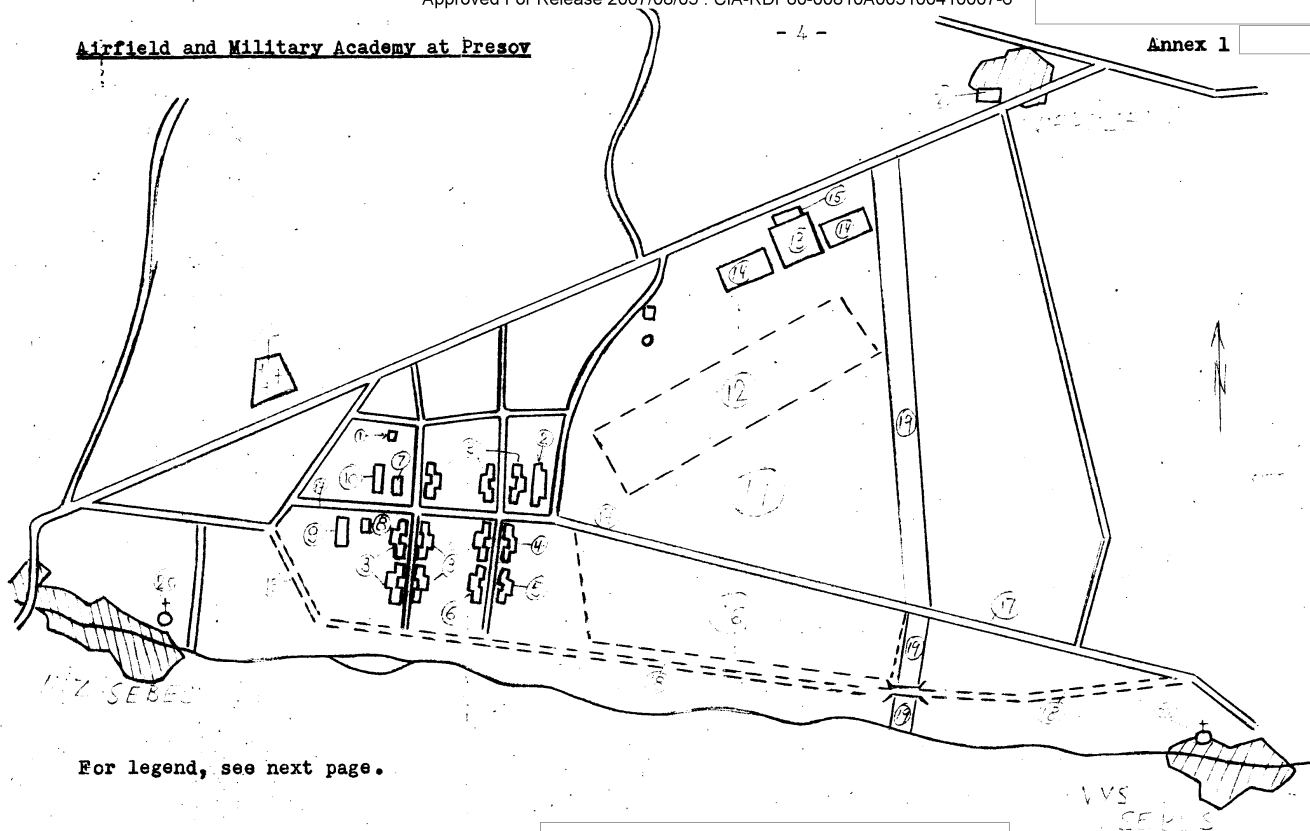
25X1

Airfield and Military Academy at Presov

- 4 -

Annex 1

25X1
25X1
25X1



25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL -

- 5

Airfield and Military Academy at PresovLegend.

Military Academy

- 1 Two-story administrative building, 40 x 12 meters, with a concrete cellar in the frontage
- 2 Single-story brick building with basement, 90 x 15 meters, housing the kitchen, messhall and PX shop
- 3 Single-story quartering building, three-wing brick building, 90 x 15 meters, partly with basement
- 4 Single-story brick building with basement, 90 x 15 meters, with kitchen and apartments for officers
- 5 Dispensary, building [REDACTED] like [REDACTED]
- 6 Apartments for officers and NCOs, building [REDACTED]
- 7 Garage under construction, planned as single-story building, about 40 x 12 meters
- 8 Boiler house under construction
- 9 Transformer station under construction
- 10 Building under construction, purpose unknown

Presov Airfield

- 11 Airfield area
- 12 Sodded take-off and landing strip, 1,000 to 1,200 meters long, rolled
- 13 Old hangar, 60 x 40 meters
- 14 Two new hangars, 80 x 30 meters each
- 15 Administrative building
- 16 Extended section of the field
- 17 Abandoned road section
- 18 New road
- 19 Rampart ditch, 8 meters wide, 3 meters deep
- 20 Church [REDACTED]

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25X1

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25X1

21. Ruin at Kapusany, marked by obstacle lights

22. Church at [REDACTED] marked by obstacle lights

23. Cemetery at [REDACTED]

24. Small building for watch purposes

25. Hangar for gliders

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25X1

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25X1

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Training Device for Parachutists

Legend:

- 1 See-saw
- 2 Hut at
- 3 Ladder
- 4 Jumping board
- 5 Device to which the para-
- chutist is attached
- 6 Place of instructor

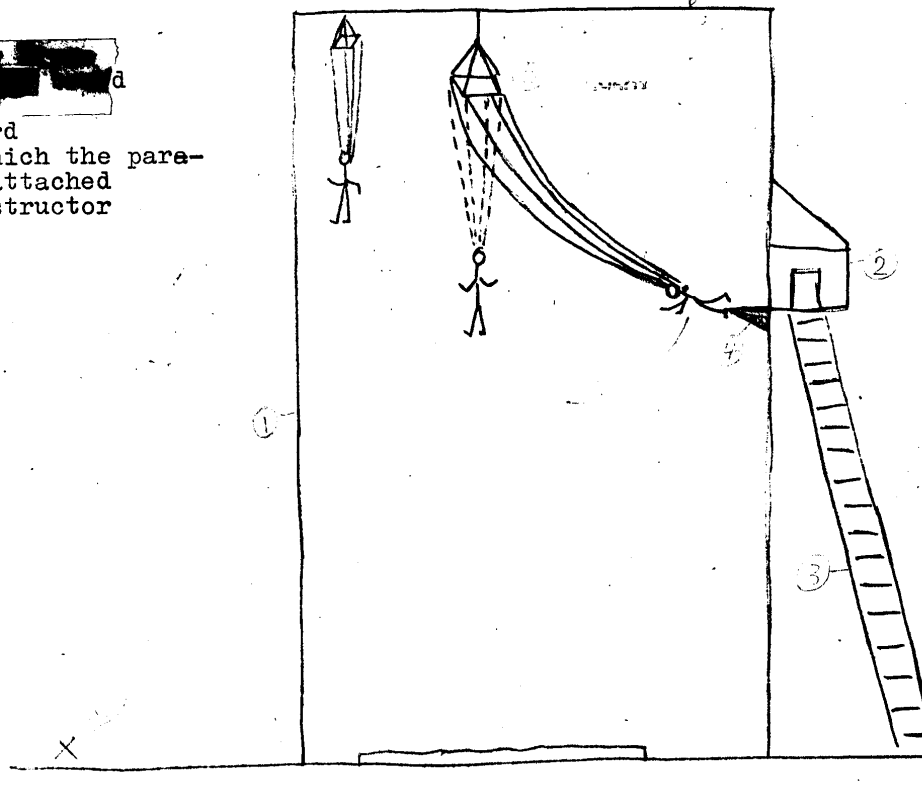
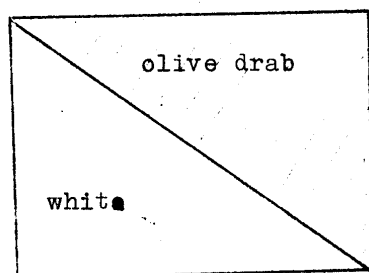
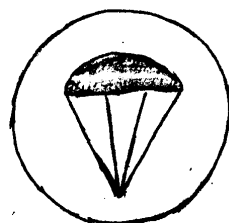


Plate Attached to the Radiator of the Trucks Hauling Parachutists



Parachute Insignia



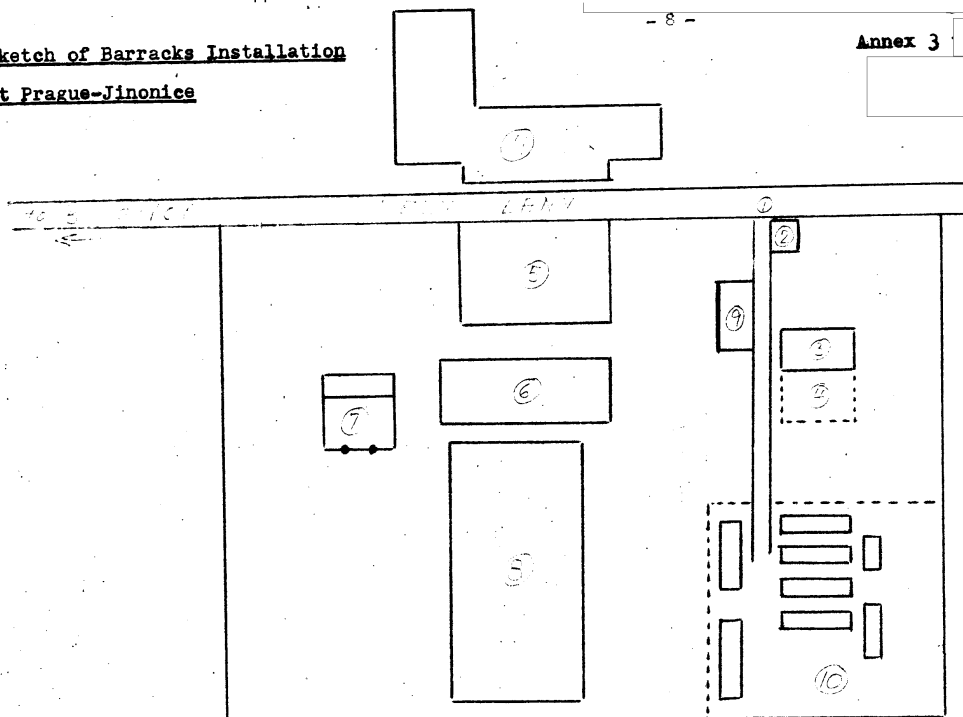
Silver parachute on blue background

25X1

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Layout Sketch of Barracks Installation
at Prague-Jinonice

Annex 3



For legend, see next page.

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Layout Sketch of the Barracks Installation at Prague-Jinonice

Legend.

- 1 Two-wing iron gate, about 4 meters wide
- 2 Guardroom, brick structure, about 5 x 4 meters
- 3 Brick garage building, about 30 x 6 meters, 4 gates, with pits under the motor vehicle parking places
- 4 Concrete apron, about 50 x 30 meters
- 5 Three-story cultural house under construction, about 40 x 20 meters
- 6 Brick building, about 25 x 15 meters, with kitchen, messhall and PX shop
- 7 Boiler house with 2 smokestacks and roof and coal shed under construction
- 8 Four-story quartering building, 50 x 20 meters, under construction
- 9 Guardhouse and prison, brick structure, about 12 x 4 meters
- 10 Camp for laborers, will be dismantled after completion of construction work
- 11 School

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